

Filed for intro on 02/16/95
House Bill _____
By _____

Senate No. SB1678
By Cohen

AN ACT to enact the "Child Aid Restraint Enactment" which shall hereinafter be known as CARE.

WHEREAS, the health and safety of our children is of paramount concern to the citizens of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee has long been a leader in enacting legislation to provide for more stringent child safety standards; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee was, in fact, the first state in our nation to enact comprehensive child restraint statutes for motor vehicle travel; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee also has in place an extensive system of laws to prevent and to punish acts of child abuse and child neglect; and

WHEREAS, while these child safety laws are indeed worthy in their conception, purpose and enforcement, there may exist other issues in child safety that this general assembly has been remiss in addressing, and

WHEREAS, the schematics of grocery stores and many department stores are designed to attract the shoppers attention to the goods for sale in such stores; and

WHEREAS, while this marketing plan is economically sound for the profitable operation of stores, it also creates a situation where a parent's attention is diverted from his or her small children while they are shopping; and

WHEREAS, this situation is potentially dangerous for small children, especially those children who are riding in shopping carts; and

WHEREAS, it is now time for this general assembly to address this omission in our comprehensive child safety laws by requiring grocery and retail stores to equip shopping carts that have child seats with a safety belt to restrain such child; and

WHEREAS, this statutory measure will prove to be highly effective in enhancing the overall safety and welfare of this state's most precious resource: our children; now, therefore, BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as, the "Child Aid Restraint Enactment" which shall hereinafter be known as "CARE".

SECTION 2. Each owner of a shopping cart which provides a space for a child to sit, shall have a seat belt or safety belt attached at the appropriate location to allow appropriate restraint of the child.

SECTION 3. A violation of this act is a Class C misdemeanor, punishable only by a fine of not more than fifty dollars (\$50).

SECTION 4. This bill shall take effect on July 1, 1995, the public welfare requiring it.

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